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who began his caustic criticism before the war closed, and who keeps it up in his latest volume. Likewise in Robert Nichols' verse you get the same affirmation of the hideousness and futility of the process.

The significance of this revolt is that it comes from youth, and they are men of a social caste that hitherto has glorified almost all the wars in which Great Britain has shared. But no longer do these men speak the "Rule Britannia" dialect.

### "HUMANIZING" AN ARMY

SECRETARY OF WAR BAKER on February 26th issued a statement, or "order," through the General Staff office, with which officers were charged to "familiarize themselves at once." Technically considered, it is a memorandum on the "treatment of recruits," who, by the way, are not forthcoming now in a way to please the War Department.

Following is the text of the order:

"The treatment of the new soldier must be based on the human element much more than has been the case in the past. We have given our pledge that the new army shall be a really democratic institution, not a thing apart from the people, but essentially a part of the people, by and for whom it exists, and it is incumbent upon every officer and non-commissioned officer of the service to do his utmost to bring this about, not only in drill and discipline, but also in human interest and sympathy for the thoughts and feelings of the young civilian who dons our uniform."

The inferential admissions of this document as to past practices are significant. We shall not attempt to say precisely how much its issuance is due to the widespread revolt of non-professional officers and drafted privates, who served in the A. E. F., against the temper and the tactics of the West Point "regulars" under whom they acted at home and abroad—a revolt that smouldered in days of war, but has flamed up and out since the armistice. That this fierce resentment against the "caste" system of the regular army and the "machine" conception of the private, which the West Pointer has come to hold through long years of unchallenged power, has had much to do with the present demand for "humanization," we have little doubt. Even a General Staff knows when to pay at least mock obeisance to democracy and humanity.

We are interested in another phrase in this order. It is the one in which Secretary Baker says that the country has given a pledge that the army shall be a "democratic institution." We can understand how an army can begin to form and function in a manner approximating democratic rule; but that it can stay so, or function efficiently from the military standpoint, while so managed, we

doubt. Soviet Russia has tried it and swiftly seen a most autocratic form of army rule come to pass to meet alleged or real national needs.

Militarism and autocracy are Siamese twins. However, we have no objection to an effort to humanize the autocratic ideal so far as it may be done; but we do not expect to see colonels and privates fraternizing, or army-post administration decided by a referendum of officers and privates, or court-martial justice rival in equity that decreed by civilian courts. Lead is still lead and gold is still gold, despite the latest proof that they have unsuspected affinities and are neither of them matter, but only differing modes of motion. An army barrack is not a home and never can be made one; and a system that has for its corner-stone unquestioning, unreasoning obedience cannot be expected to function like a free State.

### HOPEFUL WORDS FROM JAPAN

THE JAPANESE correspondent of the *New York Evening Post* strikes a reassuring chord from out of what has sounded to us as an inharmonious orchestra in Japan. He tells us that Premier Hara is showing considerable determination in his efforts to get the government of Japan out of the control of the army. We are given a picture of the popular agitation against the old iron-fisted soldier faction which has tried to make a second Germany out of Japan. He expresses the view that Japan "is rapidly joining with the rest of the world in its hatred and contempt of anything which savors of Prussianism."

It appears that Ichizo Hattori, formerly governor of Hyogo prefecture and now a member of the Diet, has recently made a strong attack in open session on the militarists, accusing the war office of constantly interfering in secret with Japan's foreign relations, and that to the serious detriment of the reputation of Japan abroad. It is true that the war minister denied these charges; but we are convinced by what this correspondent says, and by certain other facts which have reached us, that there is a growing tendency on the part of the Japanese public to disagree with the views of the war minister. Some of the newspapers, such as the *Yomiura*, are discussing the whole matter with unusual frankness, speaking in concrete terms about such things as Japanese diplomacy in China and the unscrupulous activities of militarists, especially also in China.

Mr. Osaki, having recently returned to Japan after an extended journey through America and Europe, has spoken very critically of Japan, accusing her of being a "Fuji standing upside down." Among other things Mr. Osaki said:

"It cannot be denied that there has been a positive tendency in Japan to regard military force as a universal panacea for all international ills. In the past Japan has frequently had recourse to military force in international questions, but the general tendency of the world has now changed, since the great war has demonstrated beyond a doubt that a strong army and navy can hardly guarantee the ascendancy of a country. If military force could satisfactorily solve all international questions, such problems as the Shantung question and the China boycott would have been settled long ago."

It appears also that Mr. Nagashima, member of the Diet, has demanded the establishment of a Foreign Relations Committee, an innovation indeed.

But the remarkable thing about the whole situation seems to be the wide welcome from the public at large and by the press to the views thus expressed against the militarists.

### COMPULSORY UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING

THE LATEST formal action by Congress relative to the plan to have compulsory universal military training of the youth of the United States "side steps" the issue. Two factors of the situation have caused this performance: the condition of the Treasury and the disinclination of the party managers to have any additional complexity added to an already tangled and disturbed state of affairs in a vexing presidential campaign.

With estimates of the cost of the innovation—in times of peace—ranging anywhere from \$700,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000 annually, lawmakers who live in fear of irate and already heavily burdened taxpayers, and who know from the estimates of expert congressional and Treasury officials that the government faces a deficit of from three to five billion dollars next year, are not prepared to back the "militarists" who wish peace conscription.

As for the politicians, they have begun to hear from the farmers, the manual workers, the "intelligentzia," the women, and the returned soldiers. The latter, it was supposed, would be strong supporters of the project. Some of them are, but more of them are not. Their experiences in Europe and in the home camps have been educational. Like the rank and file of the British and French armies, they are "fed up" on war and cannot be counted upon for future offensive action or for loyalty to a military policy.

If many of the candidates for the Presidency could have their way, they would avoid taking sides on this issue now. But the supporters of the candidacy of General Wood, of the United States Army, do not intend to let them evade facing the issue. He does not. He is for

the plan—body, mind, heart, and soul. They want to know whether his rivals are, and they keep writing formal letters to the would-be neutrals.

Their tactics are quite legitimate. We trust that the Wood backers will continue to prod until they get some positive answers. The electors in this campaign have a right to know what the several candidates think. Planks in party platforms illuminate the way partly; but it is in the man more than in the platform that voters are now most interested; for a platform may be ignored or forgotten; but a man of the requisite presidential age does not change his spots. If he is a leopard, he remains so.

### THE REAL RUSSIA

SINCE we last went to press the Russia of the Soviets has so strengthened itself in a military way that there is no longer any formidable military opposition to it within the nation, nor any disposition of the Allied Powers further to spend money, supplies, and men in aiding elements of the population that resist the Soviet control. Nor is this all. Great Britain, Italy, and France, to a less degree, have informally, if not formally, agreed to quasi-recognition of the State dominated by Lenin and Trotsky; and Japan and the United States have agreed in this, at least, that they are withdrawing troops from Siberia and letting the situation take what shape it will along Russian nationalistic lines.

These governmental decisions, so pregnant with importance, because pointing toward cessation of internal Russian strife and also toward a radical alteration of the economic condition of Europe and northern Asia, have been arrived at partly because of necessity and partly because of the appeals of reason or commercial cupidity. The masses of the people in the Allied and Associated nations will not support further warfare against the Russian masses. Moreover, all latest reports from Russia indicate a greater degree of political stability and economic health there than conservative journals and their correspondents have been willing to report and admit. Last, but not least, the Russian market is vast, and priority of entrance into the field means much wealth to the pioneer trading nation.

Having decided no longer to "kick against the pricks," Europe has at last agreed to do what she should have done years ago, namely, send into Russia a representative commission backed with the moral support of the nations interested. Reliance in part upon the Labor Section of the League of Nations is interesting. Delegates so appointed may command treatment from the Soviet government that a commission of "intellectuals," professional public officials, or diplomats of the old school